

Remarks

Applicant believes that this amendment places the subject application in better condition for allowance and in so doing introduces no new issues. Therefore, entry of this Amendment, reconsideration of the application, and allowance of all claims pending herein is respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowability given claims 4-8 if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1-12 were originally presented in the subject application, and claims 13 and 14 were added in a preliminary amendment. In the foregoing amendment, independent claims 1 and 9 have been amended to include the elements of allowable claim 4. Claims 2-4 and 10 have become redundant, and are therefore cancelled. The remaining claims depend from claim 1 or 9, each of which contains all of the characteristics of allowable claim 4. Claims 1, 5-9, and 11-14 remain in this case.

The Examiner's concerns are addressed separately below in the order raised in the outstanding Office Action.

No new matter has been added.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3 and 9-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by Siemens (WIPO Pub. No. 821666). As mentioned above, independent claims 1 and 9 have been amended to include all of the characteristics of allowable claim 4, and claims 2-4 and 10 have been cancelled as redundant. The remaining claims now depend from claims 1 or 9, and are therefore also allowable.

For the above stated reasons, the remaining claims are believed patentable over the art of record.

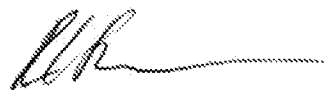
CONCLUSION

For at least any one of the foregoing alternate reasons, Applicant submits that the dependent claims are allowable for the same reasons as the independent claims from which they directly or ultimately depend, as well as for their additional limitations. Applicant therefore further submits that all of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot.

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action at an early date is respectfully requested. However, if any matters remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 50-0734** referencing Docket No. 1182.020/NB4368. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: July 21, 2008
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